

September 8, 2014 Monthly Meeting
USDA Service Center
Board meeting 4:00 pm

Pfeifer called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Supervisors present: Jim Pfeifer, Ron Johnson, and Tom Wolles (via telephone)

Absent: Reid Christopherson, Jeff Oyen

Others present: John Parker, Denise Fletcher, Deron Ruesch, Brian Topp, Rick Mayko, and Brian Scott

Agenda: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

Minutes of July 8th meeting: Handed out. MSP to approve by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

Minutes of August meeting: Handed out. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

Treasurer's report: Handed out at meeting. MSP to approve by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

Bills: Reviewed at meeting. Approved to pay at John's discretion (up to \$10,000). The remainder will be paid by October 30th. MSP to approve by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

Accounts Receivable: Reviewed at meeting.

Activities Reports:

NRCS activity report by Deron Ruesch:

WETLANDS:

Our current backlog is 42 outstanding certified wetland determination requests. 21 of these will be completed by Wetland Consultants. Since Minnehaha's backlog is at a manageable level, our Wetland Experts will be detailed to other counties.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

We are processing 15 (field checks/contracting) re-enrolled Continuous CRP contracts.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP):

10 CSP contracts are obligated on 4,924.30 acres, with practice payments of \$141,673. Working on renewing 1 CSP contract on 571.6 acres that expires at the end of the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EQIP):

6 EQIP contracts have been obligated on 514.5 acres, totaling \$253,591. Processing 50 EQIP payments for \$700,000.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):

1 application has been pre-approved for the new ACEP program. This was the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) in the previous farm bill.

OTHER NOTES:

South Dakota's Soil Health Challenge: Don't Be Left in the Dust! to be held on September 16th. The SDACD State Convention will be held on September 21-23 at Oacoma Cedar Shores. September 30th is the FFA Land Judging, to be held in the Garretson Area.

Central Big Sioux Water Project:

Report by Brian Top. The grant proposal will be submitted by October 2nd. Barry Berg would like a district person to attend the steering committee meeting on September 17th. A Letter of Support signed by the Board is needed. MSP to approve the Letter of Support by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Bio-Solids Update:**

Soil sampling is being done. New producer maps have been sent in to the city. Approximately 500 acres are ready for bio-solids to be applied in the next 10 days.

2. **Update on District Services:**

There are already 18 parties interested in trees for 2015. There is still some grass seeding, spraying and mowing to be completed this fall. 32 sites to monitor on the Big Sioux Project.

3. **Gevik Learning Area Report/SDSU Bio-reactor:**

There have been two positive responses from people who have visited the site recently. Joan Wolles and Sandy Sutton have been keeping the area mowed and cleaned up.

4. **Contribution Agreement:**

John and Deron submitted the proposal. We should know the status by October 1st.

5. **Grants (Tech. grant, tree renovation grant, native grass restoration grant, and vegetation grant-Bly Brothers):**

John working on. He and Brian will meet on September 12th to discuss. 2 people participated in the native grass restoration grant and 2 are interested for next year. An extension will be requested for the tree renovation grant.

6. **Central Big Sioux Water Project:** We need a Letter of Support, which has been completed. (see above)

7. **Fall Convention – September 21-23 – Chamberlain:**

John will attend. Jim is going on September 21st and Jeff may, as well. Tom is not sure if he will be there.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Tractor Leases:**

Will request 3 tractors for 2015 - 2 John Deere and 1 Case-IH.

2. **Endowment Fund:**

This goes to the state association to fund projects. We have contributed \$100 in the past. MSP to approve donation of \$100 by Wolles and Johnson. All ayes.

3. **Review Services (profit and loss):**

Are all of the District services making money and worth doing? This will be assessed further in November or December.

4. **Land Judging:**

To be held on September 30th on a farm by Garretson, with scoring at the John Deere facility. Pfeifer's Implement has donated an excavator for this.

CONSERVATION PLAN APPROVALS

MSP to sign agreements by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1. Correspondence - None

MSP to adjourn at 5:37 pm by Johnson and Wolles. All ayes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 (Due to Columbus Day) at 3:00 pm – USDA Service Center
Submitted by Denise Fletcher, Ultima Employee